AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus allowing multiple types of connections to be made to the apparatus, said apparatus comprising:

a) a receptacle having a plurality of electrical connecting lines, wherein at least one of said plurality of electrical connecting lines is used to detect more than one type of connection to be made directly to said receptacle;

b) a plurality of detection devices for detecting ones of the types of connections, wherein said plurality of detection devices employ passive detection tests; and

c) switching logic adapted to couple appropriate ones of the electrical connecting lines to ones of said plurality of detection devices to allow detection of the type of connection to the apparatus.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein said plurality of detection devices are operable to detect the type of connection by a physical test.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein at least two of said plurality of detection devices use a physical test that is different from one another.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein at least one of the plurality of detection devices is operable to detect the type of connection by detecting a voltage.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein at least one of the plurality of detection devices is operable to detect the type of connection by detecting a current.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein at least one of the plurality of detection devices is operable to detect the type of connection by detecting a current.

23. (Currently Amended) An apparatus allowing connections via multiple types of communication protocols ~~connections~~ to be made to the apparatus, said apparatus comprising:

a) a receptacle having a plurality of electrical connecting lines, wherein at least one of said plurality of electrical connecting lines is used to detect more than one type of communication protocol used in a connection to be made directly to said receptacle, such that said more than one type of communication protocol ~~connection~~ can be used in a connection made to said receptacle without requiring ~~the~~ use of an intermediate connection device;

b) a plurality of detection devices operable to detect ones of the types of communication protocols ~~connections~~ by a physical test; and

c) switching logic adapted to couple appropriate ones of the electrical connecting lines to ones of said plurality of detection devices to allow detection of the type of communication protocol used in a connection to the apparatus, wherein at least two of the detection devices are switched between a common line of the electrical connecting lines.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein at least two of the plurality of detection devices are operable to detect the type of protocol ~~connection~~ by a different physical test from the other of the at least two detection devices.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein a detection device of said plurality of detection devices is operable to detect the type of protocol ~~connection~~ by detecting a voltage.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein a detection device of said plurality of detection devices is operable to detect the type of protocol ~~connection~~ by detecting a current.

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein a detection device of said plurality of detection devices is operable to detect the type of protocol ~~connection~~ by detecting a current.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein a first of the types of protocols ~~connection types~~ is an ISDN.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein a first of the types of protocols ~~connections~~ is a LAN.

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein a second of the types of protocols ~~connections~~ is a modem.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein a third of the types of protocols ~~connections~~ is an ISDN.

32. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing multiple types of connections to be made to a peripheral component comprising the steps of:

a) providing a peripheral component having a receptacle, said receptacle having a plurality of electrical connecting lines, wherein at least one of said plurality of electrical connecting lines is used to detect more than one type of connection made directly to said receptacle;

b) coupling a detection device to appropriate lines of said plurality of electrical connecting lines to allow determination of whether one of the types of connections is being made to the peripheral device;

c) determining if said the detection device in b) detects a connection to the peripheral device;

d) repeating said b) and c) for other detection devices that are operable to detect other types of connections, wherein said detection devices in said b) and d) employ passive detection tests; and

e) in response to detecting a connection to the peripheral component, establishing an electrical pathway which is appropriate for the type of connection detected in said c), wherein pre-defined electrical connecting lines which are appropriate for said connection-type are used as communication lines by said connection-type.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 32, wherein said ~~plurality of~~ detection devices are operable to detect the type of connection by a physical test.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein said c) comprises said detection device testing for a voltage.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein said c) comprises said detection device testing for a current.